

true that the honest manufacturer can trust to the profession righting him in time, but some means should be devised to prevent the dishonest from reaping possible immediate benefits. Are conditions reaching such a state that because of the abuses by certain advertisers all mention of proprietary preparations must be interdicted by reputable medical journals? We have known many astute men who say that, owing to the suspicion aroused in the mind of the readers, such mention prevents sales rather than encourages them.

The distressing dilemma in which both the honest manufacturer and the medical editor find themselves, as indicated in the matter just quoted, would be at once relieved if such a bureau were in existence and could stand between the manufacturer on the one hand and the physician and the pharmacist on the other.

The conferences between the New York State Medical Association and the Medical Society of the State of New York, for years antagonistic, have had **ORGANIZATION** a happy ending in the recent **PROGRESSING.** action taken by both of them toward consolidation. At the next session of the Legislature they are to apply for a charter combining the two under the name of the Medical Society of the State of New York. This is but another milepost passed on the road to general organization of the whole regular profession of the country; when that has been effected the medical profession can get such legislation as it wants. It can then take active steps to do away with the so-called "patent" medicine evil, for the "patent" medicine business is little more than the unrestricted selling of narcotics and alcohol under fanciful names and strange disguises. There cannot be the slightest doubt that thousands and thousands of lives are ruined by habits contracted through the use of these "tonics," "bitters," "soothing syrups," etc., etc., which, as the laws now stand, are permitted free sale in any part of the country. It is within our own personal knowledge that, whereas the sale of liquors, or even such harmless stuff as beer, with its 2 per cent of alcohol, is prohibited amongst the Indians, various "patent" medicines are freely sold—and some of them contain as much as 44 per cent of alcohol. The spirit of medical progress is toward prevention—prophylaxis; yet, as the laws now stand, nothing can be done to touch the majority of these traders in lives. A thoroughly organized medical profession could wield an enormous influence; it could see to it that such men were elected to office as would promptly take action in the matter and force the faker out of business. Unfortunately most of the medical press of the country is muzzled by these very fake manufacturers, who make their money out of human lives destroyed, and many so-called medical journals will undoubtedly at-

tack any action tending to deprive them of the portion of this blood money which reaches through their advertising pages. There are a few reputable journals in the country, however, that are not so tied by the foot, which will stand by the fight till it is won. Let every regular physician of this State see that he is a member of the State Medical Society; then, as a concerted whole, we can demand that protection to the public which is so urgently needed. Join the State Society; get into line and do it at once; don't come tagging along at the end of the procession, or come in on the caboose of the milk train; get in *now*.

The question of marriage and divorce, of clouds obscuring the honeymoon, resulting in the young married couple becoming separated, has been **AN OBVIOUS DUTY** taking up considerable space **BEFORE WEDLOCK.** in the daily press of various parts of the country, almost rivaling, in fact, the amount of space devoted to the immorality and sensuality, to say nothing of the inanity of the metropolitan fast set—commonly known as the "four hundred." To the latter question we do not wish to here devote any space; it seems too obvious to demand further attention from any one not connected with the courts or the bar. The discussion on marital infelicity and divorce has called forth an expression of opinion from a number of more or less prominent people, who, with one exception, have written many words and said—nothing. The ingenuity they have displayed in dodging the real question at issue, however, is somewhat amusing. Every one who sees and has sufficient gray matter to think knows, but seldom says so out loud, the real fundamental reason. Why should a bride of a few weeks leave her newly wedded husband and the animal life she has but just discovered, and return to her home? Does not he who asks this question know that the answer is to be found running back into unwritten history? Why does a wife leave her husband to go with some other man, living in unlawful association, enduring shame and disgrace, hardship and suffering, but sticking to the man to whom she has no legal claim? The answer is writ plain for him who can read, and may be found in the first transcript of Semitic folk-lore, as represented in the Old Testament. What is the explanation of that peculiar look, as of a hunted animal, that is so often to be seen in the eyes of a young bride? The young girl goes to her wedding knowing nothing that she should know, while the prospective bridegroom meets her at the altar with a wealth of knowledge and experience that it would be well for her if he did not have. But one writer, and that one a woman, has been brave enough to plainly state the truth. Ella Wheeler Wilcox certainly has the courage of her convictions and the

support of what she knows to be the truth: "The important phases of marriage, sexual relations and maternity are never discussed by the modern young woman of the cultured classes and her mother—only the social and financial features. The average girl of the upper walks of life is, therefore, dwarfed and stunted in her emotional qualities and absolutely ignorant of the masculine nature when she goes to the altar. Meanwhile the man whom she selects for a husband has, as a rule, learned all he knows of feminine emotions and passions from women in other walks in life. * * * He chooses a girl of spotless reputation for a wife, yet he treats her as if she were a Sappho, a Du Barry, or a Phryne. * * * What but chaos can ensue? * * * It is the ridiculously false modesty of parents and their shameful indifference to a subject which is the root of all existence, that make so many marriages failures."

The burden of responsibility is placed, by Mrs. Wilcox, upon the parents; but should not some of it be borne by the family physician? He could, if he would, or if he were permitted, do much, very much, to ameliorate the trouble. The sage advice of one old family doctor to a young man in one of his families who was about to be married, can hardly be improved upon. "My son, remember that seduction is much less criminal than rape." If these questions are to be discussed at all, and there is no good reason why they should not be, then let us have expression that is sufficiently plain. Let both contracting parties to a marriage thoroughly understand their marital and sexual obligations, the one toward the other; and if their parents have not sense nor courage enough to enlighten them, then let the "good old family doctor" step in and tell them what they should know.

The few county medical societies in the State that have not as yet organized under or complied with the provisions of the **AFFILIATION OF THE STATE SOCIETY FOR AFFILIATION COUNTY SOCIETIES.** should do so without delay.

It must not be forgotten that under the revision of the constitution and by-laws of the American Medical Association delegates to the House of Delegates of that Association are now elected only by the recognized State medical societies. Formerly any medical society that adopted the Code of Ethics of the American Medical Association was considered in affiliation with that body and could elect delegates to it; now the conditions are altered. Organization is the only path for the regular physicians of the country to tread, and there must be no faltering, no backward tendency, no hesitation, no dragging up of old fights and petty squabbles. Every one must come into the State Society and thus have a voice in the affairs of the National Association. The secretaries of the county soci-

eties must remember that something more than a letter to the Secretary of the State Society stating the fact "that their society is willing to affiliate with the State Society" is required. They must forward a copy of their constitution and by-laws, together with a full list of the officers and members of their respective societies, to the Secretary of the State Society. In almost every case some minor alterations in the constitution and by-laws will have to be made before formal affiliation can be recognized by the State Society, so a certain amount of time is required in order to bring these matters into line. Do not delay; attend to the matter at once and correspond with the Secretary of the State Society, Dr. George H. Evans, 807 Sutter street, San Francisco.

A majority of the electors of this State have placed their interests in the hands of a gentleman than whom no man in the ranks **SCIENTIST TO BE OF THE MEDICAL PROFESSION HAS AT THE HELM.** shown a greater regard for strict medical ethics. Dr. Pardee has been a member of the State Society for many years and has shown much interest in its meetings and its aims; he has been in close touch with its members and has the respect of all and the love of many. The position in which he will be placed, as Governor of California, will be, to say the least, somewhat trying. On the one hand are large commercial and monetary interests to be safeguarded; and heretofore the policy of negation and concealment, and of absolute inertia in regard to the plague question, has been the policy dictated by California's commercial interests. On the other hand stand the ranks of Dr. Pardee's professional brethren; men of irreproachable character and great scientific ability; men who live and work for but one thing—for scientific truth and honesty; men who are without "their price," whom no consideration could induce to swerve from their plain duty to science, to their professional obligations, and to the welfare of the people at large. And these men, after long and careful study of ample evidence, have unanimously proclaimed that plague exists in San Francisco; that it is a menace to the whole United States; and that the "do nothing and say nothing" policy of concealment is the worst that could be followed under the circumstances. In many cities and States of the country men who have the best interests of the whole United States at heart are asking each other what position Dr. Pardee, as Governor of California, will take toward the plague question. Will he stand firmly for an open avowal of present conditions and a rigorous treatment of them, or will he be influenced by the tricky politician and the bloodless commercial interests to continue in the more than foolish policy of concealment established by that eminent scientist, Governor Gage? Dr. Pardee falls heir, with the Governor-